

Be Part of the Solution, Help Reduce

You can help prevent CSOs in Troy and Rensselaer by reducing excess flow in to the system and taking care to keep contaminants out of the sewers.

Remember that what goes down drains can end up going into the Hudson River. We can all help keep the water clean by:

- keeping paints, oils, and pesticides out of storm drains;
- fixing leaks from vehicles;
- cleaning vehicles at a commercial car wash or using biodegradable soap over grass or gravel;
- disconnecting downspouts and directing roof drains to vegetated areas where the rainwater can be naturally absorbed;
- waiting to use washing machines or dishwashers until after it stops raining, the extra water can overload the sewers and cause them to overflow;
- picking up your pet's waste and putting it in the trash;
- properly disposing of fats, oils and greases.

When put down the drain, fats, oils and grease (FOGs) wash into our sewer system and can lead to basement backups and sewer overflows.

Learn more about how to improve water quality and about Project: Cleaner Hudson at:

cleanerhudson.weebly.com



Contact information:

Troy - (518) 237-0241

Rensselaer - (518) 994-0997

Rensselaer Co. Sewer District -
(518) 283-2235

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS (CSO)

Combined Sewer System

Many older cities, including Rensselaer and Troy, have sewer systems that were designed to collect wastewater and rainwater in the same pipes and transport both to a sewage treatment plant. This is called a Combined Sewer System (CSS).

Under normal conditions, all flow is treated at the wastewater treatment plant and then released into the Hudson River. During periods of heavy rain, however, water entering the systems may create more flow than the pipes are designed to transport. To avoid back-ups, the systems were designed to include relief points, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). When the system becomes overloaded with stormwater, these CSOs will discharge the excess flow directly into the Hudson River to prevent damage.

Is There a Health Concern?

Public health officials recommend avoiding contact with active CSO receiving waters during rainstorms and for 48 hours afterwards as there may be increased risks due to bacteria and pollutants associated with urban stormwater runoff and CSOs.

A map locating active CSOs in Rensselaer and Troy can be found at cleanerhudson.weebly.com

CSOs may be reported on the above website or at www.troyny.gov

Long Term Control Plan

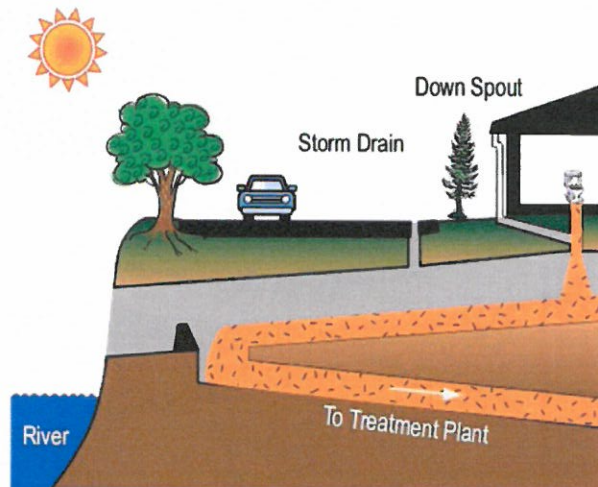
Eliminating problems related to the Combined Sewer Systems (CSSs) in Rensselaer County is a top priority of the cities of Rensselaer and Troy as well as the Rensselaer County Sewer District. A Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) was completed in 2011 by a joint group of communities on both sides of the Hudson River called the Albany Pool Communities. The LTCP outlines priority projects that will safeguard the water quality of the Hudson River.

Inspection and Maintenance

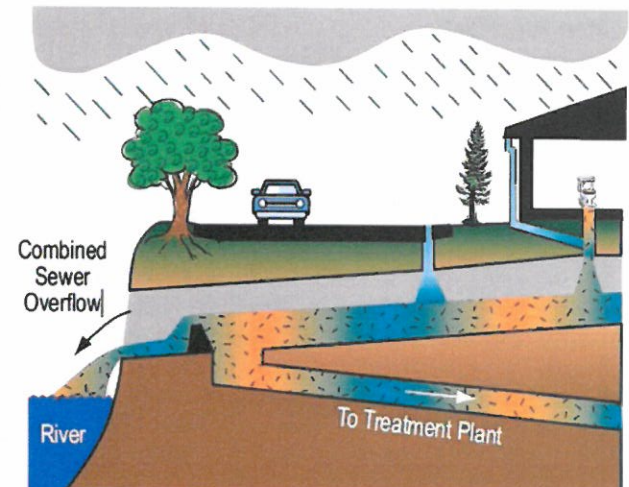
Outside of the LTCP, efforts continue in all communities to address potential problems in the CSSs. In order to prevent problems in their CSSs, the cities of Troy and Rensselaer and the Rensselaer County Sewer District inspect all elements of the system, including CSOs, regulators, and pipes on a regular basis. Any issues identified during these regular inspections, which may range from debris collected in a manhole to a deteriorating pipe, are immediately addressed.

How to identify a CSO

All regulated discharge points are identified by signs, such as below. During and after storm events, combined wastewater and stormwater may be seen flowing from these outfalls.



Combined sewer systems (CSS) are designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe.



Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are discharges of untreated wastewater from a CSS at a point before the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).